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Thurmond, Strom

BUILDING SOCIALISM

President Johnson has accepted the policy recommendations of his hand-picked CIA fact-finding committee. This committee was appointed in the wake of recent disclosures that the CIA had been financing the leftist National Student Association and other groups with international operations. The new policy calls for open subsidies to replace hidden subsidies.

This shift will have little effect on the general direction of government policy. The plan for covert financing had the support and concurrence of the highest levels of our government, including the Presidents involved. Our top policy planners for years have had a "no-win" mentality when faced with Communist ambitions.

The CIA has been the obedient tool of the Presidents and their advisers. Although many dedicated anti-Communists have worked for the CIA, they have worked under "no-win" guidelines. Others in the CIA, however, willingly have contributed to the stalemate mentality.

Whether government support is hidden or open, therefore, will make little difference in the basic policy. This policy is founded upon a fallacious concept of Communism and the best method for combatting it.

THE COMMITTEE REPORT

In justifying government support of the National Student Association, the President's committee said:

"It is of the greatest importance to our future and to the future of free institutions everywhere that other nations, especially their young people, know and understand American viewpoints. There is no better way to meet this need than through the activity of private

SENATOR

STROM THURMOND



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American organizations."

Yet the viewpoints expressed by the CIA's chosen vehicle, the National Student Association, hardly can be considered representative American viewpoints. NSA, for example, has called for the abolition of the House Un-American Activities Committee, repeal of the Internal Security Act of 1950, the admission of Red China into the United Nations, and repeal of laws banning marijuana and LSD. More recently NSA has condemned what it calls "U.S. aggression" in Southeast Asia.

Without the funds provided unknowingly by U.S. taxpayers, NSA would not have been able to exist within the U.S., much less cut a wide swath at international student meetings. Moreover, NSA's propagandizing for narrow leftist ideology abroad could not possibly have given other nations the opportunity to "know and understand American viewpoints."

There is a difference between infiltrating left-wing organizations to gather legitimate intelligence and the practice of becoming the principal support of left-wing activity. As a result of funding this strange version of "anti-Communism" the U.S. government helped NSA to found such off-shoots as the "black power" Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), and the admittedly

socialist Students for a Democratic Society.

SOCIALISM THE RULE

Judging from recent press exposures, support of left-wing groups has been the rule, rather than the exception. When Norman Thomas discovers he is on the CIA payroll, then the socialist slant of such Federal financing is clear. Other CIA grants have supported African terrorists, American pacifists, and promoters of World Government. If this is anti-Communism then the Communists have made the most of it.

America has a legitimate need for an intelligence-gathering apparatus, and for covert activity even to the extent of asking American students and citizens to perform patriotic missions for their country.

The problem is not with the CIA as such, but with the overall policy of our leaders who mistakenly believe that the way to combat Communism is to build socialism, both at home and abroad. Instead of building socialism behind the backs of the American people, the report of the President's committee seems to indicate that socialism now will be built brazenly in the open.

Strom Thurmond